

# North Carolina Aquaculture Association



*"Farming Fresh Alternatives"*

August 1, 2008

<http://www.ncagr.com/markets/aquaculture/NCAA.html>

Volume 1, Issue 3

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Special points of interest:

- Letter from the President
- Crawfish Boils
- Catfish Grants from USDA
- US Catfish Processing Up 21%

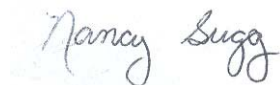
Wow what a year it has been. Since we began meeting in Spring 2007 the NC Aquaculture Association has accomplished a lot. We have formally adopted a set of bylaws and have formally elected officers. Also this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> newsletter we have put out. It has been quite some time since we'd even had one newsletter in a year. Our membership has grown from zero to 38 members. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your interest in seeing NCAA succeed and move forward. It wouldn't have been possible without all of your hard work.

The last year has been tough on everyone in our industry. Prices for inputs such as fuel and feed have continued to climb. Intense drought has hurt the production of certain species. There has been increased environmental regulation. And as always, many of us have continued to face the pressures of imports from other countries. Through all of this, we have managed to survive and keep going. We have even had several new entrants into the NC Industry as a whole. To me this shows just how strong the NC aquaculture industry is and will continue to be.

Occasionally I'm asked by prospective members, "What can NCAA do for me?" My response to this question is normally "What would you like NCAA to do for you?" While sometimes this response is taken tongue n cheek, it is true. NCAA can't help or support you if we don't know what issues you are facing in your aquaculture venture. After all, this is your association and will only be what you make it. While NCAA is not able to perform miracles, we are always open to listening to potential problems you may be facing and working together to determine the best course of action to help you. This may be in the form of letters of support, letters to legislators, or offering educational/training opportunities. These are just a few example of what your NCAA may be able to do for you. However these things do take money. One way we generate money is through membership fees. The more members we have the more funds we have to help you and the association prosper.

Speaking of money, I would like to propose we hold a silent auction in conjunction with the 2009 NC Aquaculture Development Conference. I hope everyone will find some thing they could contribute to help the association. Fingerlings, feed, marketable product are all acceptable items. I also encourage you to ask your suppliers for items to contribute to the silent auction. If you or anyone else is interested in contributing, please have them contact Matt Parker (252-633-1477 or [matthew.parker@ncmail.net](mailto:matthew.parker@ncmail.net)) for more information.

Sincerely,



President

## Crawfish Growers Hold Promotional Boils

The NC Crawfish Growers Association held 2 successful promotional crawfish boils this year despite production hurt by last summer's intense drought.

NCCG Members brought a total of 952 pounds of farm raised crawfish to the State Farmer's Market in Raleigh on Saturday June 7th. They sold out in about 45 minutes and had to turn people away.

On June 21, members sold 524 pounds of farm raised crawfish at the Piedmont Triad Farmer's Market in Colfax NC. While sales weren't as fast as in Raleigh, the Association still sold out in about 2 hours and had to turn people away.

According to Association President James Bass, of Jambass Ranch, "Last year's drought has really impacted our production this

year. If we'd had the crawfish, I'm sure we could have sold another 400-500 lbs between the 2 markets." Association Vice President Sterling Davenport from Mill Pond Crawfish agreed, "We just need to get more people growing crawfish in NC. While our season is short, it can be a nice supplemental income to some farms, or kids home on summer vacation."

## NCDA&CS Distributes Grant Funds To Catfish Farms

Earlier this year the NC Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services entered into an agreement with the US Dept of Agriculture to administer the 2005-2007 Catfish Grant. The grant was part of the Farm Service Agency's Livestock Compensation Program. In NC the program paid up to a maximum of \$29/ton of catfish feed purchased in either 2005, 2006, or 2007.

The program will help catfish farmers recoup some of the increased cost of feed over the last couple of

years. According to Carolina Classics Catfish, the cost of catfish feed increased almost \$44/ton from 2006 to 2007. Based on the application deadline of May 30, 2008, NCDA&CS Aquaculture Specialist Matt Parker estimates just over \$300,000 in funds will be distributed to catfish farmers in NC.

Rob Mayo, President of Carolina Classics Catfish, says "The timing of these funds has been crucial. The sooner NCDA&CS can

distribute the funds the better. It will put money in the pockets of our farmers for feed purchases at our peak feeding time of the year."

**Open Board**

**Meeting**

**Aug 6, 2008**

**1pm**

**Pitt County Co-op**

**Ext. Center**

## Carteret Community College Update

**Annual Meeting:**

**Jan 30, 2009**

**NC Aquaculture**

**Development Conference**

**Atlantic Beach NC**

Carteret Community College has developed bilateral agreements with UNCW and ECU for a 2+2 program where students can get their first two years of college in the Aquaculture Technology program at CCC and earn an Associates of Applied Science degree. Students can then transfer to either of the Universities to continue on for a baccalaureate degree in Marine Biology at UNCW or Biology at ECU; we also have a similar verbal agreement with the Zoology Dept at NCSU.

We are accepting new students for fall semester 2008. If interested please contact Skip Kemp, Aquaculture Technology Program, for information.

—Skip Kemp  
kemps@carteret.edu

# US Catfish Processing up 21%

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Farm-raised catfish processed during June 2008 totaled 45.2 million pounds round weight, up 21 percent from June 2007. The average price paid to producers was 79.3 cents per pound for June 2008, up 1.9 cents from last month but 2.4 cents below a year ago.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during June 2008 totaled 22.4 million pounds, up 15 percent from the comparable month in 2007. The total end of the month inventory increased 7 percent from last month but was down 17 percent from a year ago. Sales of fresh fish, at 8.44 million pounds, were up 19 percent from June 2007 and represented 38 percent

of total sales. Frozen fish sales, at 14.0 million pounds, were

The June 2008 average price received by processors for total fresh fish was \$2.48 per pound, down 4 cents from last year. Prices for fresh whole fish were \$1.65 per pound, down 6 cents from June 2007. Prices for fresh fillets were down 19 cents from a year ago at \$3.07 per pound. Total frozen fish averaged \$2.46 per pound, down 6 cents from June 2007. Prices for frozen whole dressed fish were down 5 cents at \$2.15 and frozen fillets at \$2.92 per pound were down 6 cents from a year ago.

Freshwater imports for consumption of *Ictalurus* spp., *Pangasius* spp., and other

catfish of the order Siluriformes for May 2008 totaled 10.2 million pounds, up 87 percent from the amount imported in May 2007. Imports were from Cambodia, Chile, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vietnam. The *Ictalurus* spp. imports totaled 2.86 million pounds, which were from China and Trinidad and Tobago.

Fresh boneless catfish fillet exports totaled 57.0 thousand pounds, with 49.5 thousand pounds going to Canada and the rest going to the Netherlands. No exports of frozen, boneless catfish fillets were reported for May 2008.

-USDA July 21, 2008

## Silent Auction Fundraiser

Please contact Matt Parker for information on contributing the NC Aquaculture Association Silent Auction Fundraiser to be held at the 2009 NC Aquaculture Development Conference January 30-31, 2009 in Atlantic Beach NC. Matt can be reached by phone at 252-633-1477 or email [matthew.parker@ncmail.net](mailto:matthew.parker@ncmail.net).

## New Member Survey

Please rank in order of importance with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important

What do you see as the major issue facing the NC Aquaculture Industry in the coming years?

- \_\_\_ Water Quality Issues
- \_\_\_ Aquatic Animal Health
- \_\_\_ Marketing Your Products
- \_\_\_ Waste Disposal Issues
- \_\_\_ Other (Please specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to see the NC Aquaculture Association spend its revenues?

- \_\_\_ Scholarships
- \_\_\_ Legislative Issues
- \_\_\_ Educational Outreach
- \_\_\_ Technical Training For Members
- \_\_\_ Other (Please specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in serving in a leadership role of the organization? (please check one)

- \_\_\_ Yes, as an officer
- \_\_\_ Yes, as a board member
- \_\_\_ Yes, on a committee if needed
- \_\_\_ Not at this time

Please provide any additional comments in the space below:

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## Membership Form

Categories	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Membership	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> Support Industry	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Government/University	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	\$ 25

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable and return to:  
North Carolina Aquaculture Association  
c/o NC Dept. Agriculture and Consumer Services  
P.O. Box 2066  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

**Open Board**

**Meeting**

**Aug 6, 2008**

**1pm**

**Pitt County Coop**

**Ext. Center**

## Announcements

### Announcements:

If you have any personal announcements, you would like to send out please send them to Matt Parker for the next newsletter. These could include births, deaths, or special events at your farms.

**Births-**  
Southeast Pond Stocking is proud to announce the arrival of Kira Grace Patterson born on March 27th to the parents of Kevin and Shannon Patterson, and the arrival of Abi-

gail Carol Stuckman on April 6th to the parents of Rick and Amy Stuckman. Both babies are health and the proud parents are doing great.

Robert Bishop will be offering a workshop on the culture of Abalone at his facility Sept 19-20, 2008. The workshop is limited to the first 15 people and costs \$275. Contact Robert Bishop for more information. [rbapmf@gmail.com](mailto:rbapmf@gmail.com)

If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter please join YOUR NC Aquaculture Association!

Otherwise this will be the last one you receive.



c/o NC Dept. Agriculture and  
Consumer Services  
P.O. Box 2066  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

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